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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

FEDERAL HORTICULTURAL BOARD.

C. L. Marlatt, *Chairman;* W. A. Orton, Geo. B. Sudworth, W. D. Hunter, Karl F. Kellerman.
R. C. Althouse, *Secretary*

SERVICE AND REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

AUGUST, 1917.

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CONSIGNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND FLAX DESTROYED.

The possible shortage of binder twine for harvesting purposes led to search for substitutes. One of the suggested sources for such twine was the New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*). This plant has been introduced and is being grown to a limited extent in California. The International Harvester Co., desiring to have an early and quick test made of its usefulness as a source of twine, had arranged for the importation of a large quantity of rootstocks of this plant from New Zealand. The fact of this proposed importation was brought to the attention of the Federal Horticultural Board, and the record of this plant as to insect enemies and diseases in New Zealand was looked up. It developed that a considerable number of insect pests attack this plant in New Zealand, sometimes with disastrous results, and that several of these pests are of such kind that they can be expected to extend their depredation to other cultivated crops in this country. The same is true of certain diseases of the New Zealand flax. Furthermore, rootstocks of this nature can not be freed from the infesting insects and diseases by any practicable fumigation or disinfection. As a result of these findings, the International Harvester Co. was advised very strongly by the Federal Horticultural Board to destroy this shipment, which was already en route, or return it to country of origin. At a considerable financial loss and the foregoing of the opportunity for an immediate experiment, the International Harvester Co. accepted the suggestion of this board, and the imported flax was taken away from the port of San Francisco on July 26, 1917, under the direction of Mr. Frederick Maskew, chief deputy quarantine officer at that port, and dumped into the Pacific Ocean.

The securing of New Zealand flax to test its commercial possibilities can probably be safely accomplished, although at a necessary delay, by the importation of seed, and the considerable risk of adding important new insect pests and plant diseases to the existing stock in this country can be thus avoided. The bringing in of any rooted plant involves danger which should not be accepted when the insect or disease infestation is uncertain or unknown.

This incident is reported as an illustration of the informal activities of the board in aiding to protect the country from incidental plant menaces not covered by quarantine or restrictive orders and for the further purpose of giving recognition to, and commendation of, the public-spirited action of the importers and others interested in the possible development of a New Zealand flax industry in the United States.

(T. D. 37304) PLANT QUARANTINE ACT—CITRUS FRUIT QUARANTINE.

NOTICE OF QUARANTINE NO. 28, ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *August 7, 1917.*

To collectors and other officers of the customs:

The appended copy of notice of quarantine No. 28, with regulations (citrus fruit quarantine), effective on and after August 1, 1917, is published for your information and guidance.

L. S. ROWE, *Assistant Secretary.*

[Then follows the text of the quarantine and regulations.]

CONGRESSIONAL PINK BOLLWORM CONFERENCE.

The resolution given below was adopted August 8, 1917, at a conference of the southern representatives in Congress called to consider the means of meeting the menace occasioned by the existence of the pink bollworm of cotton in Mexico. The Federal Horticultural Board was present at this conference, and statements were made by the chairman of the board and by Mr. Hunter, fully outlining the existing conditions in Texas and Mexico in relation to the pink bollworm.

Whereas the Congress of the United States has made a liberal appropriation for the purpose of investigating the extent of the territory in Mexico infested with the pink bollworm, and to ascertain whether or not this pest, which has been found so destructive to the cotton industry, has made its way into this country; and

Whereas the Hon. James P. Buchanan, chairman of the House committee of Congress, created to combat the advance of the pink bollworm in the United States, and other members of the Texas delegation in Congress are urging the grave importance of some form of legislation by this State to protect Texas from the ravages of the pest; and

Whereas the seriousness of the menace that confronts the cotton States of the Union is such as to demand prompt attention and the employment of every precaution that may be deemed practicable and effective: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Agriculture of the House be directed to make immediate inquiry concerning the result of investigations authorized and conducted by the United States Government of the pink bollworm; and also inquire the results of such study of the pest as the State department of agriculture has been able to make; and that the said committee further ascertain

what action seems most advisable for the State of Texas to take to protect the cotton industry, and make such recommendations to the House as in their judgment is wise at as early a date as may be practicable.

SCREENING OF SOUTHERN COTTON MILLS ON ACCOUNT OF THE PINK BOLLWORM.

AUGUST 14, 1917.

DEAR SIRS: Under the revised rules and regulations governing the importation of cotton into the United States, effective August 1, 1917, it is optional with the board whether the screening of mills in which disinfected imported cotton is used or of warehouses in which such cotton is stored shall be required. The method of disinfection now in force at northern ports of entry for foreign cotton are believed to be normally 100 per cent effective, but there necessarily must always remain a possibility of failure of complete disinfection due to a possible mishap in the process. In view of this possibility, it seems well worth while to safeguard against this small risk and particularly in the case of cotton mills, such as yours, which are located in the cotton belt and may have growing cotton within a few miles, or at least within the range of flight of the insect. In the interest, therefore, of cotton culture in the South, you are requested, in connection with the use of foreign cotton, to maintain in good condition the screening of all storage houses and other places in which such cotton is kept and of the rooms in which it is handled and cleaned prior to the carding process.

PINK BOLLWORM SPREADING IN MEXICO.

EXPLORER FOR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORTS SEED FROM INFESTED TERRITORY PLANTED NEAR EAGLE PASS, TEX.

[The following press notice was issued from the Department of Agriculture on Aug. 21, 1917.]

That the pink bollworm is becoming widely distributed in Mexico, and through shipments of infested seed is likely to appear much nearer the Texas border this year, is the report brought back from Mexico by a representative of the Federal Bureau of Entomology, who recently explored the territory in northern Mexico now infested by the bollworm.

Near Eagle Pass, Tex., on the Mexican side, the representative found a field of 60 acres of cotton planted with seed obtained in the Laguna region of Mexico. This region now is widely infested with the insect, and it is considered likely that the pest will become established much nearer the Texas border as the result of plantings of infested seed. Such seed has been planted at Morales near the town of Allende, about 50 miles from Eagle Pass and even nearer the United States, at a point opposite Del Rio. Agents of the United States Department of Agriculture are keeping a close watch of the territory along the Mexican side and will endeavor to stamp out any outbreaks which may occur this season.

The wide distribution of the pest in the Laguna region was shown by samples of seed obtained by the entomologists. Of 40 samples collected throughout this region, 30 were infested. In some parts of the Laguna section the new pest has not attracted much attention, the specialist reports, perhaps because its seriousness is not yet appreciated. In other localities, notably the southeastern part of the Laguna, it has reached such numbers as to interfere seriously with the cultivation of cotton.

The rapid spread of the pink bollworm in Mexico probably is due to the wide demand for seed of the Egyptian variety in which the pest was carried to this

country. The pink bollworm was first introduced in Mexico in 1911 through the importation of 125 sacks of Egyptian seed, which were planted in the vicinity of Monterey. The plantings from this seed yielded well, and a demand arose for the seed. Much of it was sent to the planters in the Laguna district.

PROHIBITION OF ENTRY OF GOOSEBERRY PLANTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

AUGUST 27, 1917.

The SECRETARY OF STATE.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of August 16, transmitting a letter from the British ambassador, requesting the exemption from the provisions of amendment No. 2 to Notice of Quarantine No. 7 of gooseberries grown in the United Kingdom and inspected and passed by the British Board of Agriculture. The above-mentioned quarantine prohibits the importation into the United States of gooseberry and currant plants from all countries of Europe and Asia on account of the danger of introducing the white-pine blister rust, a very serious disease caused by the fungus *Peridermium strobi* which has its alternate stage on currants and gooseberries.

It is a matter of regret that the British producers of gooseberries as well as the American growers of this fruit should suffer a temporary hardship on account of this quarantine which is believed to be necessary for the protection of the American white-pine forests which are of infinitely greater value to this country than all cultivated Ribes.

There is a possibility that this quarantine may be lifted or modified in the future, but the Department of Agriculture desires to defer further consideration of this subject until the results are available of investigations now in progress on the life history of the white-pine blister rust and its relation to currants and gooseberries. European Ribes were excluded from the United States on account of evidence presented to the Federal Horticultural Board and still in part unpublished showing that there is a strong probability that the disease may be carried in shipments of Ribes from nurseries. It has been found that Ribes are sometimes shipped with diseased leaves adhering and that in other cases plants defoliated in the field by leaf blights send out a second growth of tender leaves subject to infection and are shipped in this condition. Finally, infections of this disease have been found on shoots of a gooseberry related to the English variety and have been produced on such shoots by artificial inoculation. It is felt that the forest interests which are at stake require the application of the most extreme precautions, and for this reason it is held to be necessary to continue for the present at least the prohibition of imports of Ribes from abroad. This department has also a domestic quarantine preventing shipments of Ribes from the eastern United States into the western United States. The trend of recent investigations in Canada presents confirmatory evidence of the possibility of the blister-rust fungus overwintering in Ribes. Should it appear after the completion of the present investigations that our fears have not been justified, this department will take appropriate action.

Respectfully,

C. F. MARVIN, *Acting Secretary.*

LIST OF CURRENT QUARANTINE AND OTHER RESTRICTIVE ORDERS.

QUARANTINE ORDERS.

The numbers assigned to these quarantines indicate merely the chronological order of issuance of both domestic and foreign quarantines in one numerical series. The quarantine numbers missing in this list are quarantines which have either been superseded or revoked. For convenience of reference these quarantines are here classified as domestic and foreign.

DOMESTIC QUARANTINES.

Date palms.—Quarantine No. 6, with regulations: Prohibits the interstate movement of date palms or date-palm offshoots from Riverside County, Cal., east of the San Bernardino meridian; Imperial County, Cal.; Yuma, Maricopa, and Pinal Counties, Ariz.; and Webb County, Tex.; except in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed in the Notice of Quarantine, on account of two injurious scale insects, to wit, the Parlatoria scale (*Parlatoria blanchardi*) and the Phoenicococcus scale (*Phoenicococcus marlatti*).

Cotton seed and cottonseed hulls.—Quarantine No. 9: Prohibits the importation of cotton seed and cottonseed hulls from the Territory of Hawaii on account of the pink bollworm.

Hawaiian fruits.—Quarantine No. 13, revised, with regulations: Prohibits the importation from Hawaii of all fruits and vegetables, in the natural or raw state, except in manner or method or under conditions prescribed in the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, on account of the Mediterranean fruit fly and the melon fly.

Sugar cane.—Quarantine No. 16: Prohibits the importation from Hawaii and Porto Rico of living canes of sugar cane, or cuttings or parts thereof, on account of certain injurious insects and fungous diseases of the sugar cane known to occur in these Territories.

Cotton.—Quarantine No. 23, revised, with regulations: Prohibits the movement of cotton from Hawaii to the continental United States, except in accordance with the regulations prescribed in the Notice of Quarantine, on account of the pink bollworm.

Gipsy moth and brown-tail moth.—Quarantine No. 27, with regulations: Prohibits the movement interstate to any point outside of the quarantined towns and territory, or from points in the generally infested area to points in the lightly infested area of stone or quarry products and of the plants and the plant products listed therein until such stone or quarry products and plants and plant products have been inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture and certified to be free from the gipsy moth or the brown-tail moth, or both, as the case may be. This quarantine covers portions of the New England States.

FOREIGN QUARANTINES.

Irish potato.—Quarantine No. 3: Prohibits the importation of the common or Irish potato from Newfoundland; the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon; Great Britain, including England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland; Germany; and Austria-Hungary on account of the disease known as potato wart.

Mexican fruits.—Quarantine No. 5, as amended: Prohibits the importation of oranges, sweet limes, grapefruit, mangoes, achras sapotes, peaches, guavas, and plums from the Republic of Mexico, on account of the Mexican fruit fly.

Five-leafed pines, Ribes, and Grossularia.—Quarantine No. 7, as amended: Prohibits the importation from each and every country of Europe and Asia, and

from the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland of all five-leafed pines and all species and varieties of the genera *Ribes* and *Grossularia*, on account of the white-pine blister rust.

Cotton seed and cottonseed hulls.—Quarantine No. 8, as amended, with regulations: Prohibits the importation from any foreign locality and country, excepting only the locality of the Imperial Valley, in the State of Lower California, Mexico, of cotton seed (including seed cotton) of all species and varieties and cottonseed hulls, on account of the pink bollworm.

Seeds of avocado or alligator pear.—Quarantine No. 12: Prohibits the importation from Mexico and the countries of Central America of the seeds of the avocado or alligator pear, on account of the avocado weevil.

Sugar cane.—Quarantine No. 15: Prohibits the importation from all foreign countries of living canes of sugar cane, or cuttings or parts thereof, on account of certain injurious insects and fungous diseases of the sugar cane occurring in such countries. There are no restrictions on the entry of such materials into Hawaii and Porto Rico.

Citrus nursery stock.—Quarantine No. 19: Prohibits the importation from all foreign localities and countries of all citrus nursery stock, including buds, scions, and seeds, on account of the citrus canker and other dangerous citrus diseases. The term "citrus" as used in this quarantine includes all plants belonging to the subfamily or tribe *Citratæ*.

European pines.—Quarantine No. 20: Prohibits the importation from all European countries and localities of all pines not already excluded by quarantine on account of the European pine-shoot moth (*Evetria buoliana*).

Indian corn or maize and related plants.—Quarantine No. 24, as amended: Prohibits the importation from southeastern Asia (including India, Siam, Indo-China and China), Malayan Archipelago, Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, Philippine Islands, Formosa, Japan, and adjacent islands, in the raw or unmanufactured state, of seed and all other portions of Indian corn or maize (*Zea mays* L.), and the closely related plants, including all species of Teosinte (*Euchlaena*), Job's tears (*Coix*), *Polytoca*, *Chionachne*, and *Sclerachne*, on account of the downy mildews and *Physoderma* diseases of Indian corn, except that Indian corn or maize may be imported on compliance with the conditions prescribed in the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Citrus fruit.—Quarantine No. 28: Prohibits the importation from eastern and southeastern Asia (including India, Siam, Indo-China, and China), the Malayan Archipelago, the Philippine Islands, Oceania (except Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand), Japan (including Formosa and other islands adjacent to Japan), and the Union of South Africa, of all species and varieties of citrus fruits on account of citrus canker, except that oranges of the mandarin class (including satsuma and tangerine varieties, may be imported on compliance with the conditions prescribed in the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

OTHER RESTRICTIVE ORDERS.

Nursery stock.—In addition to nursery stock, the entry of which was brought under regulation with the passage of the plant-quarantine act of August 20, 1912, orders have been issued by the Secretary of Agriculture regulating the entry of potatoes, avocados, cotton, corn, cottonseed products, and citrus fruits, under the authority contained in section 5 of this act.

Irish potato.—The order of December 22, 1913, covering admission of foreign potatoes under restriction, prohibits the importation of potatoes from all foreign countries, except under permit and in accordance with the other provisions

of the regulations issued under said order, on account of injurious potato diseases and insect pests.

Avocado or alligator pear.—The order of February 27, 1914, prohibits the importation from Mexico and the countries of Central America of the fruits of the avocado or alligator pear, except under permit and in accordance with the other provisions of the regulations issued under said order, on account of the avocado weevil. Entry is permitted only through the port of New York and is limited to the large, thick-skinned variety of the avocado. The importation of the small, purple, thin-skinned variety of the fruit of the avocado, and of avocado nursery stock under 18 months of age, is prohibited.

Cotton.—The order of April 27, 1915, prohibts the importation of cotton from all foreign countries and localities, except under permit and in accordance with the other provisions of the regulations issued under said order, on account of injurious insects, including the pink bollworm. These regulations apply in part to cotton grown in and imported from the Imperial Valley, in the State of Lower California, in Mexico.

Corn.—The order of March 1, 1917 (Amendment No. 1, with Regulations, to Notice of Quarantine No. 24), prohibits the importation of Indian corn or maize in the raw or unmanufactured state from the countries and localities listed in Notice of Quarantine No. 24, except under permit and in accordance with the other provisions of the regulations issued under said order, on account of injurious diseases of Indian corn.

Cottonseed products.—The order of June 23, 1917, prohibits the importation of cottonseed cake, meal, and all other cottonseed products, except oil, from all foreign countries, and a second order of June 23, 1917, prohibits the importation of cottonseed oil from Mexico, except under permit and in accordance with the other provisions of the regulations issued under said orders, on account of injurious insects, including the pink bollworm.

Citrus fruits.—The order of June 27, 1917 (Notice of Quarantine No. 28, with Regulations), prohibits the importation from the countries and localities listed therein of all species and varieties of citrus fruits excepting only oranges of the mandarin class (including satsuma and tangerine varieties) on account of the citrus canker disease. Oranges of the mandarin class (including satsuma and tangerine varieties) may be imported under permit and in accordance with the other provisions of the regulations issued under said order.

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